

# ***MONTHLY CROP-WEATHER***

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MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

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The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators, FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency), and NRCS (USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service) Offices

**BROWN:** Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signup completion is 72 percent. Many price support loans are being repaid especially soybeans. No real concerns.

Heavy snow last weekend caused problems for livestock producers, otherwise feed supplies good. Much talk about soybean rust.

**CROW WING:** It seems that we have lost all the dairy producers who weren't into it big time. We only have a few large hog producers. Upcoming trends: organic farming, vegetable and berry farms, unique animal farms (goats shipped live to the cities) and growing hay for the many, many people who own a few horses.

**HUBBARD:** Good livestock condition and feed supplies. I have stopped and checked corn remaining in the field and noticed some mold growing on most ears. The quality of this corn remains in question.

**JACKSON:** Late winter snow storm with 10 plus inches of snow by 11 AM on 3-18-2005.

Just when you think spring is here, Mother Nature pulls a fast one. We received over 16 inches of wet, heavy snow on March 18 and 19 in Jackson county. The moisture is appreciated and will add protection to alfalfa fields. On the downside, livestock yards are a mess and won't improve until the snow is gone. Feed supplies are adequate, but the snow will make access to hay stacks more difficult. The snow will delay small grain seeding at least another two to three weeks.

**KITTSOON:** Adequate feed supplies available. Livestock producers have been busy with calving. Flood forecasts expect the Red River and Two Rivers crests to be similar to 2004. Flood concerns at this time.

**LINCOLN:** It has been a very open winter. Feed supplies are very good. Cattle are in very good condition. Weather has been good for calving. After an extremely dry open winter, the area is starting to get spring snows that contain some moisture.

**MCCLEOD:** Livestock condition and feed stocks are good. There's been a slight decrease in operating loan applications; cash flows are tight with reduced soybean yields in 2004 and low corn prices.

**MORRISON:** Very little snow cover remains. Approximately 5 percent of the 2004 corn crop still standing with moistures from 13-17 percent being reported as this is slowly being harvested. Very good livestock conditions with plenty of feed available and dry feedlots.

**PENNINGTON:** Weather has been seasonal to slightly cooler than normal. Snow cover is diminishing. Some open patches in most fields. There has been more snow this winter than in the past 2 or 3 years. Livestock are doing well, with adequate feed supplies. Winter crops have fared well, with adequate snow cover.

Snow is starting to melt with some dirt in the fields showing. No flooding problems this spring unless we get a lot of rain. We're still several weeks away from any spring work. No one is very excited with today's low prices.

**POLK:** Snow in fields melting fast with warmer temperatures. Some minor runoff beginning into ditches. Most field are now showing some bare spots.

**RED LAKE:** March has been cooler than average. Some bare spots starting to show up in fields, but there's still a lot of ice and snow around. Most of the wheat and soybean ground got worked back last fall.

Some standing corn now being harvested from last fall. Snow pack is melting with bare spots showing in most fields.

**REDWOOD:** This has been an unusually dry winter. Received some snow this past weekend. Most of the snow is gone two days later. There is enough feed in the area for livestock.

**RICE:** Twelve inches of snow on March 18, 2005. Feed supplies remain adequate. Farmers are gearing up for the planting season. Land values continue to increase.

**ROSEAU:** Roseau county is experiencing an almost ideal early spring with gradual increasing temperatures resulting in a slow snow melt. In the meantime, farmers are eagerly awaiting the Crop Disaster Program signup which is expected to be huge in Roseau.

**TODD:** We have very little snow cover remaining. About 5-10 percent of the 2004 corn crop is still standing.

Thank you for your comments.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2005:  
Temperatures during February averaged from 3.4 degrees above normal in the Northwest District to 7.3 degrees above normal in the Southwest and South Central District. Temperature extremes included a low of -23 degrees at International Falls, and a high of 68 degrees at Lamberton. Precipitation averaged from 0.22 inch below normal in the North Central District to 0.89 inch above normal in the South Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 2.20 inches was recorded in Preston.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for February 2005

	Temperature			Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>					
Crookston	40	-15	13.2	2.0	.13 -.41
Moorhead	43	-9	17.4	3.3	.61 .02
Warroad	47	-16	13.3	4.9	.33 -.22
<u>NC DIST 2</u>					
Grand Rapids	53	-14	19.8	5.8	.50 -.11
Intl. Falls	49	-23	13.8	2.9	.28 -.36
Itasca	47	-17	15.9	5.6	.44 -.19
<u>NE DIST 3</u>					
Duluth	46	-13	19.2	4.4	1.06 .23
Grand Marais	45	-9	22.2	3.7	.52 -.04
Hibbing	50	-22	16.9	4.2	.25 -.35
<u>WC DIST 4</u>					
Alexandria	48	-5	20.0	4.7	.30 -.37
Browns Valley	55	-2	22.5	5.4	.50 -.17
Canby	62	1	26.3	5.8	.54 -.21
Fergus Falls	49	-6	19.2	5.8	.45 -.13
Montevideo	55	-3	24.0	7.3	1.57 .66
Morris	51	-3	20.4	5.0	.70 .01
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>					
Becker	52	0	23.2	7.1	.87 .18
Hutchinson	51	0	24.8	7.5	.73 .20
Olivia	55	-2	23.6	6.3	.94 .49
St. Cloud	49	-4	22.6	6.5	.97 .38
Staples	52	-14	16.6	3.1	.54 -.07
Willmar	51	-2	22.2	6.0	.89 .27
<u>EC DIST 6</u>					
Aitkin	51	-15	20.6	6.3	.98 .30
Forest Lake	56	-3	24.7	7.8	1.10 .30
MSP Airport	53	3	26.4	6.3	.96 .17
St. Paul - UofM	52	1	27.2	5.6	.82 .04
<u>SW DIST 7</u>					
Lamberton	68	0	26.1	7.4	.69 .16
Pipestone	60	-6	25.2	7.2	1.17 .66
Redwood Falls	57	-1	25.6	5.8	.76 .15
Worthington	60	-2	26.4	8.4	1.26 .65
<u>SC DIST 8</u>					
Faribault	53	2	25.4	7.2	1.39 .67
Mankato	59	1	25.9	6.5	1.48 .86
Waseca	54	-1	25.2	7.3	1.88 .93
Winnebago	61	0	27.0	8.2	1.78 1.09
<u>SE DIST 9</u>					
Preston	48	2	26.6	7.4	2.20 1.34
Red Wing	53	2	25.0	6.5	1.20 .56
Rochester	48	-1	24.2	5.8	.88 .13
Rosemount	52	1	26.2	9.1	1.39 .53
Winona	54	5	27.9	6.0	1.02 .18

m=some data missing